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Cyprus: The situation has eased after the bitter clash between Greek and Turkish Cypriot forces on 15 November, but the truce is fragile and renewed fighting could lead to early Turkish military intervention.

The tactical status quo ante has been essentially re-established in the area where the fighting took place. About 25 persons were killed in the fighting with the number of casualties divided about evenly between the two communities, according to local reports.

Nearly all observers on the island agree that Greek General George Grivas, the commander of the Cypriot National Guard, precipitated the current crisis by his insistence on sending an armed Cypriot patrol through an area held by the Turkish Cypriots. Cypriot President Makarios asserts that Grivas went far beyond what he was authorized to do. It seems likely, however, that Grivas had cleared his actions beforehand with the mainland Greek military authorities.

Available evidence indicates that Turkish air strikes against the positions occupied by Grivas' forces on 15 November might have taken place as early as dawn of 16 November if the positions had not been evacuated. Turkish ground and naval forces also went into a condition of advanced readiness, possibly for operations against mainland Greek forces in the Aegean and Greek Thrace. Both Turk and Greek forces remain on the alert.

Turkish officials recognize the role US diplomats played in inducing the withdrawal of the Greek Cypriot forces, but anti-US elements have seized the opportunity to blame Washington for the whole crisis. They instigated street demonstrations in both Istanbul and Ankara on 16 November, and they will probably follow this up with more.

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Congo (Kinshasa): Efforts to evacuate Schramme's mercenaries and Katangans from Rwanda are making headway, but new complications have arisen.

On 15 November the mercenaries, [redacted] signed a commitment in the presence of OAU and Red Cross observers not to return to Africa. The departure of the mercenaries is still held up by Congolese insistence that their countries give similar guarantees and by Mobutu's demands for indemnification for damage resulting from the mercenaries' activities.

New problems have also cropped up in the case of the 2,400 Katangans. A poll conducted by Congolese Government representatives in the presence of the Red Cross indicated that, contrary to previous expectations, most of the Katangans want to take advantage of Mobutu's amnesty and return to the Congo. Mobutu has already asked for US aircraft to transport them. The Red Cross representative, however, believes the Congolese subjected the Katangans to "extreme" pressure. He has recommended that the Red Cross have nothing to do with their return to the Congo unless Mobutu provides further guarantees.

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NOTES

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USSR: Despite hard bargaining in Geneva, Moscow continues to consult closely with the US on tactics for guiding a nonproliferation treaty through the UN. Soviet delegates said this week that the USSR's position on non-use of force--a topic expected to come up next week--would be cast in terms which would not draw US opposition. The Russians also reaffirmed their readiness to cooperate at the UN in heading off efforts by nonnuclear nations to scuttle the treaty and in avoiding heated exchanges on disarmament topics that might jeopardize the treaty's progress.

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France: De Gaulle's land-based IRBM program continues to be plagued by difficulties. French officials admit that the second full-scale test of the two-stage missile, conducted on 10 November, was unsatisfactory. Failure of the first two-stage test flight in July and other problems had already forced a delay in the deployment date, from mid-1969 to 1970. [REDACTED]

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 16 November 1967 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 11-14-67, "The Soviet and East European General Purpose Forces" 25X1

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